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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Shuichi TAKEUCHI et al.

Group Art Unit: 2877

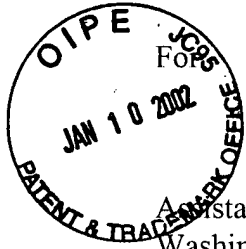
Appl No : 09/973,114

Examiner:

Filed : October 10, 2001

: OBJECTIVE LENS FOR OPTICAL HEAD

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT



Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, §1.97-1.98, Applicants hereby call the following documents to the Examiner's attention:

Japanese Laid Open Patent Publication No. HEI 11-337818, which was published on December 10, 1999, along with English language counterpart U.S. Patent No. 6,191,889 to MARUYAMA, which issued on February 20, 2001;

U.S. Patent No. 6,088,322 to BROOME et al., which issued on July 11, 2000; and

U.S. Patent No. 6,118,594 to MARUYAMA, which issued on September 12, 2000.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above materials and cite the patent documents. Copies of the above-noted documents are attached and have been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

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Applicants also bring to the Examiner's attention the following copending and commonly assigned patent applications:

U.S. Application No. 09/747,969 to MARUYAMA, entitled "Objective Lens for Optical Pick-Up", which was filed on December 27, 2000; and

US 2001 0008512 A1

U.S. Application No. 09/962,301 to TAKEUCHI et al., entitled "Optical System for Optical Head", which was filed on September 26, 2001.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(iii), copies of the above-mentioned applications are attached hereto. However, the Examiner is also requested to review the file wrapper of these U.S. patent applications at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the references of record, if any, cited therein.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Shuichi TAKEUCHI et al.

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January 10, 2002
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